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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/344,526	06/24/1999	MARK S. CHEE	A-66828-2/DJ	9163

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SUITE 3400
FOUR EMBARCADERO CENTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 941114187

EXAMINER

MARSCHEL, ARDIN H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1631	

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/344,526	CHEE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ardin Marschel	1631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 16-20 and 36-50 is/are pending in the application.
~~40-44, 46-50, 52-54, 56-58, 60-62, 64-66, 68-70, 72-74, 76-78, 80-82, 84-86, 88-90, 92-94, 96-98, 100-102, 104-106, 108-110, 112-114, 116-118, 120-122, 124-126, 128-130, 132-134, 136-138, 140-142, 144-146, 148-150, 152-154, 156-158, 160-162, 164-166, 168-170, 172-174, 176-178, 180-182, 184-186, 188-190, 192-194, 196-198, 200-202, 204-206, 208-210, 212-214, 216-218, 220-222, 224-226, 228-230, 232-234, 236-238, 240-242, 244-246, 248-250, 252-254, 256-258, 260-262, 264-266, 268-270, 272-274, 276-278, 280-282, 284-286, 288-290, 292-294, 296-298, 298-300, 302-304, 306-308, 310-312, 314-316, 318-320, 322-324, 326-328, 330-332, 334-336, 338-340, 342-344, 346-348, 350-352, 354-356, 358-360, 362-364, 366-368, 370-372, 374-376, 378-380, 382-384, 386-388, 390-392, 394-396, 398-400, 402-404, 406-408, 410-412, 414-416, 418-420, 422-424, 426-428, 430-432, 434-436, 438-440, 442-444, 446-448, 450-452, 454-456, 458-460, 462-464, 466-468, 470-472, 474-476, 478-480, 482-484, 486-488, 490-492, 494-496, 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DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission, filed on 9/29/03, has been entered.

Applicants' arguments, filed 9/29/03, have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

NEW MATTER

Claims 36-44, 47-51, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

This rejection is reiterated and maintained from the previous office action, mailed 4/25/03, however, now directed to the amendment which responded to this rejection as previously set forth but still with NEW MATTER in the response. Specifically, the limitation which contains NEW MATTER is that of the phrase "do no comprise an optical

“tag” as in claim 36, line 7, and claim 54, line 8. Applicants have pointed to the specification at pages 18-19 for support. Consideration of these pages revealed that the only characterization with written basis regarding the instant invention is the lack of an optical signature. The optical tag is only disclosed regarding what were previous inventions and not that the absence of such an optical tag characterizes the instant invention. Therefore, the amendment directed to “optical tag” contains NEW MATTER. It is suggested to amend the claims to recite “optical signature” as the negative limitation.

OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 36-59 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 27-39 of copending Application No. 09/748,706 in view of Walt et al. (P/N 6,023,540; already of record).

This rejection is reiterated and maintained from the previous office action, mailed 4/25/03, as not having been argued and therefore still deemed proper.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

IDS

It is acknowledged that an IDS has been filed 9/29/03. It, however, has been processed into an image which is unreadable. A reprocessing has been requested and will result in execution of said IDS with a copy sent with the next office action.

Claims 16-20 are allowed.

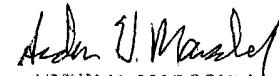
Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the Central PTO Fax Center. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The Central PTO Fax Center number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ardin Marschel, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703)308-3894. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (703)308-4028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Legal Instrument Examiner, Tina Plunkett, whose telephone number is (703)305-3524 or to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

December 12, 2003


ARDIN H. MARSCHEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER